



JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL

February 23, 2022

Written Testimony of THE JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL, JEWISH FEDERATION
OF GREATER HARTFORD

Before the Appropriations Committee concerning H.B. No. 5037 AN ACT ADJUSTING THE STATE
BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2023

Dear Members of the Appropriations Committee,

On behalf of the Jewish Community of Greater Hartford, the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford goes on record in support of appropriating Medicaid funding to continue the process of implementing Public Act 21-36 AN ACT CONCERNING THE AVAILABILITY OF COMMUNITY VIOLENCE PREVENTION SERVICES UNDER MEDICAID.

The Jewish Community Relations Council educates and mobilizes the Jewish community on issues of social justice, combats hate, and advocates for public policy consistent with Jewish values. One of the core tenets of Judaism is *tikkun olam*, repairing the world. In that vein, our legislative priorities focus on issues such as protecting our most vulnerable populations, committing to an anti-hate culture, and fostering economic growth. Allocating Medicaid dollars to violence prevention services enables our state to better protect our most vulnerable populations and combat violence while simultaneously ensuring that violence prevention professionals are both certified and reimbursed for their efforts.

We appreciate your work in 2021 to pass the historic legislation for Medicaid to cover violence prevention services. As you have already recognized the importance of the efforts to address violence, it is now time to support and fund this critical work. At this time, we are asking you to appropriate Medicaid funds to this bill to enable certified violence prevention professionals to attend to victims of violence and reduce the cycle of violence.

Thank you for your consideration. You are welcome to contact us with any questions by contacting Alana Butler, Director of JCRC, at abutler@jewishhartford.org or 860-727-6152.

SINCERELY,

GARY S. STARR, CHAIR, JCRC, JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER HARTFORD

DEB POLUN, CHAIR, GOVERNMENT RELATIONS TASK FORCE, JCRC, JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER
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